

REMARKS

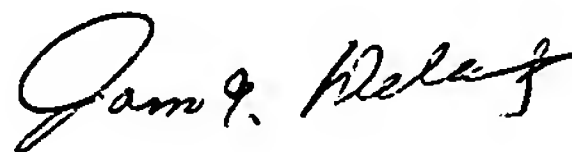
In this paper, claim 1 is currently amended, and claim 22 has been added. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-22 are pending.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Horiuchi (US 6,367,833 B1). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Horiuchi discloses an automatic shifting control device for a bicycle wherein the user may set gear ranges. Also, the system may automatically change the shift speed or available gears based on various operating conditions. However, there is no evidence that any change in shift speed or available gears results in a reduction of stress applied to a component at the time the component is operated. Thus, Horiuchi neither discloses nor suggests the subject matter recited in claim 1 and many of the dependent claims.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 has been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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